

available on modern methods of radiation dosimetry, as the references indicate, the subject is unfortunately covered only sketchily.

It would also be nice to know what the safe dosage is near structures such as the eye, instead of being informed, "Prolonged gamma radiation . . . is likely to lead to permanent damage and should be avoided . . ." Naturally what the radium therapist wants most to know is what is meant by "prolonged radiation."

Chapters on the effects of radium on malignant tumors and on tissue culture and experimental radiology are well done.

* * *

CONTEMPORARY RELIGIOUS JURISPRUDENCE. By T. H. Rubenstein of the Illinois Bar. The Waldain Press, Chicago, 1948. \$2.50.

In the 120 pages of "Contemporary Religious Jurisprudence," I. H. Rubenstein of the Illinois bar attempts to clarify and state the criminal and civil aspects of the major polemical tenets of fortune-telling, faith healing and pacifism.

With candid frankness and honesty the author aptly points out the conflict of these tenets with the public welfare, health, morals and safety of society. With each of the three tenets of fortune-telling, faith healing and pacifism the author gives a brief definition and history, and then explores the criminal and civil aspects with relation to society as a whole.

With the two tenets of fortune-telling and faith healing, the irreconcilable conflict with medical practice acts is pointedly brought out. This is done by the narration of actual cases and experiences which are of record. The fact is made clear that if the advocates of these tenets were allowed to exploit civilization, they would repeal all medical and public health safeguards and expose the nation to the menace of uncontrolled, unguided and unintelligible practice of the healing arts.

In his treatise on all of the three tenets the author points out that "Law, with its consequence in justice, must act as a bulwark of Society against the onslaughts of those who would use religion as a word to gain their fanatical desires and ends."

* * *

STANDARD RADIOGRAPHIC POSITIONS. By Nancy Davies, M.S.R., C.T. Senior Radiographer, Malvern General Hospital, Malvern, and Ursel Isenbarg, M.S.R. Radiographer, Royal Free Hospital, London. Second Edition. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1948. \$6.00.

This text is elementary in nature, and uses only line drawings instead of actual radiographs. Nevertheless, it covers the subject quite well, and should prove to be useful for those who are beginning the study of x-ray technique.

* * *

CONTROL OF PAIN IN CHILDBIRTH—Anesthesia—Analgesia—Amnesia. By Clifford B. Lull, M.D., Director, Division of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Philadelphia Lying-in Unit, Pennsylvania Hospital; and Robert A. Hingson, M.D., Associate Professor of Obstetrics; Anesthesiologist, Department of Obstetrics, Johns Hopkins University Hospital; Surgeon, U.S.P.H.S. Introduction by Norris W. Vaux, M.D., Consulting Obstetrician and Gynecologist, Philadelphia Lying-in Unit of Pennsylvania Hospital. Third Edition. Revised and Enlarged. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1948. \$12.00.

This important and extensive survey of obstetric analgesia and anesthesia, now appearing in its third edition within four years, has been reviewed elsewhere on numerous occasions. The first quarter of the volume includes a basic discussion of sacral anatomy and of the innervation of uterus and bladder, contributed by two anatomists from Washington University, as well as a pharmacologic descrip-

tion of all the agents commonly administered during labor and delivery. At the end of Part One there is a brief essay on the psychology of fear during labor, but since this chapter amounts essentially to an advertisement for caudal anesthesia it could well be omitted. Part Two, the largest section, is concerned largely with details of the various techniques for relieving obstetric pain. In this section the book suffers from the fact that the authors have appropriated and reproduced verbatim several articles which have appeared in periodicals, such as the lengthy article on saddle-block anesthesia by Andros and others which was published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, May 1948, while in other instances subsections have been contributed by quite an array of persons, some of whose names are mentioned briefly in the preface. The result is confusion, repetition, and lack of editorial coherence, not to mention a surfeit of graphs, charts, tables and drawings, many of which have been taken from the brochures of pharmaceutical manufacturers. It appears that this section of the book badly needs rewriting in the language of the authors. Part Three (which is not denoted as such in the table of contents) undertakes to discuss the choice of anesthesia for an extensive array of obstetrical complications and includes a chapter on care of the newborn infant, written by two pediatricians. Some of the material in this chapter seems out of place in a volume on anesthesia. The last 25 pages of the book are given over to reprinting in its entirety an article on newborn mortality which appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association for January 24, 1948. Here again one questions the desirability of including material in this form within the covers of a book. Despite these obvious shortcomings the volume is a real storehouse of information and will continue to be a standard reference in its field.

* * *

SYNOPSIS OF PSYCHOSOMATIC DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT. By Flanders Dunbar, M.D. and others and the members of the staff of the departments of Medicine and Psychiatry Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, New York City. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1948. \$6.50.

The author has compiled a very useful handbook on psychosomatic diagnosis and treatment for the general practitioner. It is exceedingly logical and simple, and a valuable volume for the library of every physician. The introductory chapter defines "Functional Diseases" and brings them within the purview of psychosomatic medicine. Emphasis is placed upon the unknown menace of the psychoneuroses, and indications are given that etiologically these disorders may arise from the tempo of our civilization. It is significant that there is a marked psychosomatic component in hypertension, hyperventilation and hyperthyroidism, and many other diseases, and that the change in the incidence of peptic ulcer and coronary artery disease in the male is in part a resultant of the cultural pressure of society on the individual. The diseases to which an individual may become heir are the results of the interplay of the physical and psychic constitutions. There is an excellent chapter on embryology in its relation to psychosomatic disorders, wherein illness is considered essentially a response, conditioned or unconditioned, to a stimulus acting upon the individual at any moment of his existence. In the chapter on predisposition to psychosomatic dysfunction, the author discusses the mechanism of organ selection as an expression of the preponderant emphasis of the emotions on the soma. Many of these predispositions may be acquired in utero or in early life. There is a fine chapter on the physiology of the autonomic nervous system in which is discussed the effect of psychic impulses on the mechanisms of disorder of the nervous system.

The chapter on the psyche in relation to the gastrointes-

tinal tract and especially on the disease entity, colitis, is very fine. The approach in this field is purely objective, and the information discussed is essential to the internist and general practitioner.

The chapter on the vasomotor system, especially in relation to disorders of the skin, sheds new light upon the intricacies of this subject. The author emphasizes that disorders of the skin are greater than skin deep. The chapter on the eye, ear, nose, throat and dentition is excellent and well authenticated with photographs and references.

There is a section devoted to metabolic and endocrine disturbances with special emphasis given to the subject of diabetes. In this disease it is absolutely necessary to appraise the psyche in order to understand the behavior of the diabetic patient. The same applies to the understanding of hyperthyroidism and obesity. A chapter on arthritis and joint diseases, including an excellent essay on gout, throws new light upon the psychic components in these disorders. The remainder of the book is devoted to the circulatory system, the respiratory system (a fine discussion of the psychosomatic aspects of asthma), the genito-urinary disorders, with a terse and intelligent presentation of the problem of impotence and frigidity, and then two fine chapters on "accident-proneness" and the neuroses, the latter being especially pointed, and understandable.

The volume is highly recommended for the physician's library.

* * *

AN INTRODUCTION TO GASTROENTEROLOGY. By Walter C. Alvarez, M.D., Professor of Medicine, University of Minnesota, The Mayo Foundation. Fourth Edition, Revised and Enlarged. 269 Illustrations. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Medical Book Department of Harper and Brothers, New York, 1948. \$12.50.

The fourth edition of Alvarez's book is an expansion of the third. The heaviest additions are in the chapters on the pylorus, the nerves to the bowel, the nerves of the gallbladder, the functions of the colon, flatulence, the electroenterogram, technical methods and apparatus and the effect of vagotomy in man. It serves admirably as a summary of the author's ideas and work during the past 30 years, especially on the gradient theory, to which the entire first portion of the book is devoted.

It is an excellent reference for anyone doing research in gastroenterology and for the gastroenterologist in practice. It is well and interestingly written. However, one sometimes has difficulty in separating Dr. Alvarez's own ideas or theories from the record of more proved facts.

The bibliography is extensive, running to 2,800 titles and 136 pages. Unfortunately, these articles are not numbered, which makes it difficult to trace the source work—especially when one author has multiple articles to which one reference is made. There is a summary at the end of each chapter giving the essentials of the chapter for those not wishing to go through the whole of it. These summaries in themselves are quite full, at times running to more than five pages.

The Paul B. Hoeber Company has done a handsome job of printing and binding.

* * *

BIOLOGY OF PATHOGENIC FUNGI. Edited by Walter J. Nickerson. This is Volume VI of the "Annales Cryptogamici et Phytopathologici," published at Waltham, Mass., the Chronica Botanica Co., San Francisco, J. W. Stacey, Inc. Price, \$5.00.

This book is the first of its kind, in the English language, which brings together present knowledge of the biology of pathogenic fungi. As J. Gardner Hopkins points out in the foreword, much effort has been expended on arguing nomenclature in mycology to the neglect of studies on the biology of the fungi themselves, a subject of much greater importance for the diagnosis and cure of fungus diseases.

The present volume is of great value to mycologists, laboratory workers, and dermatologists. There are outstanding chapters on nutrition and metabolism of pathogenic fungi, the metabolic products of fungi, the lipids, respiration and fermentation. The chapter on chromoblastomycosis appears somewhat lengthy and out of proportion for North American readers.

The biologic approach to the fungus diseases is as fundamental and will be just as productive of results as has been the biologic approach to other disease problems. The editor, the contributors, and the publishers are to be congratulated on having made a very important step in this field.

* * *

THE CASE AGAINST SOCIALIZED MEDICINE—A Constructive Analysis of the Attempt to Collectivize American Medicine. By Lawrence Sullivan. The Statesman Press, National Press Building, Washington 4, D. C., 1948. \$1.50.

This is a brief but cogent statement of many of the drawbacks inevitable in socialized medicine, written by a Washington journalist who has also published some interesting volumes on bureaucracy in our national capital. The arguments are familiar to most medical men but perhaps to few of the public. For this reason, physicians might be well advised to send copies of this book to their friends who are in a position to influence legislation, especially members of the labor movement, thoughtful social workers, congressmen and senators.

In so doing they might care to stress the enormous swelling of the numbers of people attending doctors' offices and out-patient departments in hospitals under any socialized scheme. Trivial ailments, that are normally passed over, occupy 90 per cent of the doctor's time. Laboratory tests and x-rays triple in number, over three-fourths of them being a waste of time and material. Besides filling out innumerable forms, the doctor has to account for every little item for which he needs replacement. For example, even the smallest suture needle, when rusted or broken, must not be discarded. It must be returned to headquarters before a new one can be issued.

One large hospital clinic in England recently ran out of 6-inch plaster strips for treating ordinary traumatic lesions of the leg and trunk. Some official in London had cancelled the hospital order for plaster of paris bandages for some reason or other. Now the over-worked nursing and medical staff must find time to make home-made bandages for these cases. These are facts which your reviewer can validate by date and institution.

Physicians should remember that actual practice of their profession is but one part of their contribution to public welfare. Another and significant part is the maintenance of conditions under which good medical services can be furnished. This little book may aid in such maintenance.

* * *

CLINICAL NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY. By Frank B. Walsh, M.D., Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, Johns Hopkins Medical School. Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, Md., 1947. \$18.00.

Clinical Neuro-Ophthalmology is a very comprehensive textbook. The subject matter occupies 1,422 pages and 17 chapters.

The book is too exhaustive to attempt to outline, but it can be pointed out that it is in itself a reference library on this subject.

Chapter IV upon pupillary responses and Chapter VII upon congenital abnormalities and diseases of the eye and the central nervous system are small texts in themselves.

This book is a text and reference book that should be in every ophthalmological library.